

October 31, 1944 #1

WJK44-10-31-01

Seined the Rio Grande just below Leasburg dam. Elev. 4125. A. 72 W 80 (Water so at 8:00 AM and 3: PM due to influx of hot springs ~~and~~ below dam and diversion of river into irrigation ditches just above.) Weather clear.

Size very small at present at one place in a sand riffle the size was mostly 8 feet by 4 inches deep with only a moderately strong current. In most places the width was about 30 feet. Water clear white. Current slow to strong; bottom sand, silt, gravel, boulders. Depth mostly about 18 inches but over 6 feet in deeper holes. Pools are mostly large, some are shallow (18 inches) but a few are ~~very~~ deep and contain many large fish. Riffles are short. Food is fairly rich. A very sparse growth of filamentous algae is present. Used 6, 10 and 25 foot seines for about six hours.

Water is diverted here for irrigation. This causes a drop in water level. According to a local fisherman illegal fishing (including dynamite) is especially bad here at low water. The pool below the dam is heavily fished. Anglers were making good catches of Pelodictis olivaris. One crappie was seen. The gatekeeper reports that occasional channel catfish

October 31, 1944 #2.

Taken, a rare rainbow trout and that eels are fairly common.

A large catch of suckers was taken in one haul of the seine in a large deep hole.

Minnnows are reported scarce at this time (Kennedy lower down the river reported this an ideal place to collect.) This includes a lot of things including carp suckers which were being used by the fisherman.

Characins are more common ~~that~~ than the number in the collection indicates. They are very difficult to seine in clear water being alert, fast and capable of jumping out of a seine.

A garter snake was collected here. Three species of turtles were represented by dead individuals on shore: soft-shell, painted, and Pseudemys.